

He said to us: "During the massacre, the Turkish government took away my innocent father and my older brother and they never returned home. They were murdered by the Turkish government. My younger brother died of cold and hunger and there was no one around to bury him. My second oldest sister was married to a Turkish man by force and she died of hunger and cold as well. All of our belongings: home, money, jewelry, clothing and our historic homeland, were taken away by the Turks."

My husband was an eyewitness to the massacre. He was exposed to a terrible tragedy. It changed his entire life. He saw bodies buried below the ground with their heads exposed to the sun. He saw men, women, and children lying on the ground dead.

The surviving members of my husband's family, his mother and two older sisters, ended up in a refugee camp. His mother worked hard for several years just so they could stay alive. She was a beautiful woman, and had offers to marry several Turkish and Armenian men, but refused to remarry. In the 1920s they were fortunate to emigrate to Israel, and then to the United States in the 1960s.

My husband experienced a great deal of sadness, tragedy, depression, and loneliness. He always loved his family and this country with all his heart. He acknowledged all the Presidents of the U.S. by hanging their pictures on the wall of our home. To him, these men stood for freedom. The freedom this Country gave him allowed him to live like a human being, and express his thoughts. It gave him the courage to speak freely and never be silent again about his beloved families.

As you know, the "Aloha state" proclamation makes Hawaii the 42nd state to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Countries around the world such as Switzerland, France, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Russia and others, have passed a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide and proclaim a Day of Remembrance every year on April 24.

The U.S. government should have the willingness to join with countries around the world, and formally acknowledge and commemorate the Armenian genocide each and every year on April 24. If it is not taught in our school and if we ignore the history then we are destined to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Thank you for supporting the remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

Sincerely,
Mary.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN UP ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Correction of Longstanding Errors in Agencies Unsustainable Procurements (CLEAN UP) Act. This legislation will reform the badly flawed competitive sourcing process—saving taxpayer dollars and reinvestigating our civil service.

Especially in our current era of budget deficits, efficient government is paramount. Over the last decade, we have been much too quick to outsource many of government's most basic functions to the private sector. The desire to

do so reflected a political ideology of shrinking the government workforce—even if it meant diminishing the quality or increasing the cost of government services that are overwhelmingly supported by American taxpayers. This course of action negatively impacted everything from national defense and border security to the collection of taxes and the stewardship of our public lands. In many cases, work was outsourced with little or no competition—subverting the public interest and wasting billions in taxpayer dollars.

This bill is not about punishing the contractor community or criticizing the work that they do. The vast majority of these firms want to do the right thing and have performed many important functions on behalf of the government. However, there is some government work that is not appropriately awarded to the lowest bidder. Often this work is about providing a service as a matter of policy without regard to profit. The process by which we make decisions to hire government workers or to contract with the private sector for certain functions must reflect a mature understanding of the real differences between the mission of government and that of business.

More recently, Congress has begun to rein in administrative procurement policy by requiring more robust competition in contracting and ensuring that the core functions of government are performed by government employees. The CLEAN UP Act seeks to reverse the damage that has already been done by requiring agencies to develop plans to bring inherently governmental work back in-house and ensuring that future procurement decisions are made based on the best interest of the government and the taxpayer.

The CLEAN UP Act will make the contracting process fair to Federal employees and accountable to taxpayers.

Congress has heard from Federal workers and advocates in and out of government and their conclusions are the same—the current system is broken. We must develop a clear, government-wide standard for what work should or must be performed by government workers and put in place a fair process for competing all other work.

That is why I have introduced the CLEAN UP Act.

The CLEAN UP Act will:

Impose a uniform, government-wide standard for government work, distinguishing between the functions which must be done by our civil servants and those functions that may be done competently by the private sector;

Incrementally bring work that should be performed by Federal employees back in-house;

Encourage agencies to consider assigning new work to Federal employees if they would be more efficient rather than pursuing a policy of contracting-out, frequently through sole-source or limited competition contracts;

Require agencies to determine where there are or will be shortages of Federal employees and develop plans to address these shortages;

Maintain the existing suspension of the use of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 process until OMB determines that the reforms required by this legislation have been implemented;

Direct Agencies to implement an alternative to the A-76 process in order to continually im-

prove and streamline services—developing a more efficient process without the costs and controversies of the A-76 process.

We have some of the best and brightest in our civil service; public servants with a deep and abiding love for this country. They have important missions—to make the next scientific breakthrough; to protect our nation from foreign threats; to keep our communities safe from crime or disaster; to maintain our critical infrastructure. By enacting the CLEAN UP Act, we have an opportunity to support our Federal workforce, save taxpayer dollars, restore good government, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GERARD TULLY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Gerard Tully. On May 25th, 2011, Mr. Tully will be recognized by the President, Chairman of the Board, and Board of Directors of the Flushing Savings Bank for his 44 years of tireless and dedicated service to the Bank and the Flushing Community.

After graduating from Hofstra College in 1950, Mr. Tully set to work in the construction industry, working for numerous businesses and creating countless jobs in the Queens and Long Island communities. In 1967, he joined the Flushing Savings Bank as a trustee. From 1981 through 1989, he served as the chief executive officer, and from 1980 until 2011, he was chairman of the board. His retirement as chairman on February 15th marks the end of an era for the Flushing bank. His decades of experience and wealth of knowledge have made him an invaluable asset for the bank and the customers it serves. Moving forward, he will continue his distinguished service as a member of the board.

Mr. Tully's success was not just confined to the realm of the business. For decades, he has been an active participant in a diverse group of community organizations. His support of Catholic Charities and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation deserves special recognition. Mr. Tully's active participation and skilled leadership in a variety of charitable endeavors has changed countless lives for the better. Mr. Tully's legacy of selfless devotion to community service is something in which his wife, Frances, and their 17 grandchildren and five great grandchildren can take great pride.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to count Mr. Tully among my constituents in the 5th Congressional District of New York. He has stepped down as the Chairman of the Board of the Flushing Savings Bank after having contributed immeasurably his community. I am proud to recognize Mr. Tully and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for a lifetime of selfless dedication to the community.